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Message Text

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PAGE 01 TRIPOL 00828 241424Z

46
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EUR-12

MC-02 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /078 W
---------- 051619
R 241345Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2364

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0828

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTRY DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY URGES RESPONSE
TO LIBYAN "INITIATIVES"

1. DURING COUNTRY OFFICER JAMESON'S ORIENTATION VISIT THIS WEEK, MFA ARRANGED COURTESY CALL ON DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY FOR TECHNICAL AFFAIRS AHMAD AL-ATRASH, AS WELL AS ON DIRECTOR FOR NORTH AMERICAN AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR ARAB AFFAIRS. ATRASH DISCUSSED LIBYAN-U.S. RELATIONS IN NOW FAMILIAR TERMS. RECALLING HIS APRIL 14 MEETING WITH CHARGE ON SUBJECT OF EXPANDING MUTUAL DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION, HE STRESSED A NEED TO "STRENGTHEN OUR RELATIONS". HE SPOKE OF LARG "INITIATIVES" AND SAID IT WAS UP TO U.S. NOW TO RESPOND BY RELEASING C-130'S, ACCREDITING A LIBYAN AMBASSADOR AND LIFTING RESTRICTIONS ON SIZE OF LIBYAN EMBASSY STAFF IN WASHINGTON. U.S., HE SAID, WAS DRIVING LIBYA INTO THE ARMS OF SOVIETS BY WITHHOLDING MILITARY EQUIPMENT. ATRASH ARGUED THAT PRESENCE OF A LIBYAN AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON WOULD LEAD TO "BETTER COMMUNICATIONS" WHICH COULD IN TIME IMPROVE RELATIONS. WE EXPLAINED THAT LIBYA'S ACTIVE OPPOSITION TO U.S. PEACE EFFORTS MADE STEPS IN THIS DIRECTION DIFFICULT. IN SHORT, NO NEW GROUND WAS BROKEN.

2. IN PASSING IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT MINISTRY OFFICIALS HAVE
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RESPONDED HANDSOMELY TO OUR SUGGESTION THAT THEY HELP PUT

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TOGETHER A PROGRAM FOR JAMESON'S VISIT. ZEAL WITH
WHICH THEY HAVE GONE ABOUT THIS IS EVIDENCE OF EXISTENCE
OF A LOBBY FAVORABLE TO U.S. WITHIN THE MINISTRY WHICH MAY
NOT HAVE MUCH INFLUENCE ON POLICY, BUT IS ANXIOUS TO
DEMONSTRATE ITS GOOD INTENTIONS.
STEIN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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To: STATE
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